

EXCISE

12
104

SMITH VELMA T
79 HONG KONG 2481

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02481 171046Z
ACTION SS-25
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 V

O 170950Z FEB 81
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7945
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PORS, AP

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF AMBASSADOR DUBBS
DEATH

08/21/80 REVIEW 12227 / 13

Col. A	Caption removed;
Col. B	Transferred to O/FADRC
Col. C	Transferred to O/FADRC
Col. D	with additional access
Col. E	controlled by S/S
Col. F	Caption and custody
Col. G	retained by S/S

Reviewed by: *JAB*
Date: *12/21/80*

1. AMCIT TRAVELLERS, [REDACTED] CONTACTED
CONGEN AFTERNOON FEB 17 IN ORDER TO REPORT SOME INFORMATION ON
THE CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBBS IN KABUL.

[REDACTED] WERE CLOSE WITNESSES OF ENTIRE INCIDENT WHILE STAYING
AT KABUL HOTEL. THEY HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY DISTURBED AT
WHAT THEY FEEL ARE DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN A FEW KEY POINTS OF
WHAT THEY WITNESSED AND WHAT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS.

[REDACTED] IMPRESSED INTERVIEWING OFFICER AS SOBER, MATURE
AND EXPERIENCED INDIVIDUALS WITH FINE EYE FOR DETAILS.

2. [REDACTED] WHO HAVE VISITED KABUL IN THE PAST, OCCUPIED
[REDACTED] WHERE ABDUCTORS TOOK AMB HOSTAGE
AT 0905 THEY LEFT THEIR HOTEL ROOM AND SAW 12 MEN, ALL ARMED
WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS OR SERVICE REVOLVERS, SOME IN UNIFORM,
SOME IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, PROCEEDING DOWN THE HALLWAY.
AS THEY LOOKED BACK IN CURIOSITY THE MEN CLEARLY WERE WAITING
FOR THEM TO CLEAR THE AREA BEFORE ENTERING ANY ROOM. ALL THE
MEN APPEARED TO BE AFGHAN. HOTEL DINING ROOM WAS ALREADY
TENSE AND WAITERS HASTENED THEM THROUGH BREAKFAST.

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PAGE 02 HONG K 02481 171046Z

3. [REDACTED] RETURNED TO HOTEL AT 1215 TO FIND IT CORDONED
OFF. SINCE THEY HAD TO PICK UP BAGS TO DEPART ON AFTERNOON
FLIGHT THEY FINALLY PUSHED THEIR WAY INTO HOTEL LOBBY. THEY
EXPLAINED PROBLEM TO SHORT MAN WITH MACHINE GUN AND RADIO WHO
SEEMED TO BE IN CHARGE. THEY WERE HUSTLED INTO HOTEL DINING
ROOM. BOTH [REDACTED] WATCHED THROUGH GLASS DOOR NEXT TO STAIRWAY
ALL THAT THEN TOOK PLACE. DURING NEXT TWENTY MINUTES APPROX-
IMATELY 20 MORE MEN HAD GONE UP STAIRS TO SECOND FLOOR. AT
ONE POINT THREE MEN WENT UP IN GREEN BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS,
ONE OF WHOM WAS CLEARLY A SOVIET. [REDACTED] SAY THEY NOTICED
RUSSIANS READILY AROUND CITY AND HAD NO DOUBT WHEN THEY SAW
HIM THAT HE WAS SOVIET.) HE WAS BLONDISH, MUSCULAR, HEAVY
SET.

4. AT APPROX 1240 A HEAVY VOLLEY OF SHOTS BROKE OUT FOR
APPROXIMATELY FORTY SECONDS OF SUSTAINED FIRING FROM BOTH

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PAGE 1

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OUTSIDE AND INSIDE THE BUILDING UPSTAIRS. THEY ARE QUITE CERTAIN THAT NO SHOT HAD BEEN FIRED UP TO THAT POINT SINCE OTHER TOURISTS IN THE DINING ROOM SAID ALL HAD BEEN QUIET. AS SOON AS FIRING CEASED A LARGE GROUP OF UNIFORMED MEN AND CIVILIANS RUSHED UP THE STAIRS, INCLUDING TWO MEN DRESSED IN WHITE, ONE OF WHOM HAD STETHOSCOPE. TWO STRETCHERS WERE CARRIED UP AT THE SAME TIME. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY A GROUP OF MEN RETURNED BACK DOWN THE STAIRS WITH THE STRETCHERS. [REDACTED] WHO IS RED CROSS INSTRUCTOR IN CARDIO-PULMONARY RESUSCITATION, SAID SHE WAS ASTONISHED THAT BASIC PROCEDURES OF CAREFULLY EXAMINING VICTIMS FIRST BEFORE MOVING THEM WERE NOT OBSERVED. FIRST STRETCHER WAS COVERED BY A SHEET WHICH SHOWED SOME BLOOD IN THE AREA OF THE HEAD. THEY COULD NOT SEE THE BODY. SECOND STRETCHER WAS NOT COVERED AND UPPER TORSO, BADLY SHOT UP, WAS EXPOSED. [REDACTED] WERE NOT ABLE TO OBSERVE THE FACE; BLOOD WAS FLOWING PROFUSELY. A THIRD BODY WAS BROUGHT DOWN STAIRS WRAPPED IN IN A GREEN BEDSPREAD AND CARRIED OVER ONE MAN'S SHOULDER; [REDACTED] OBSERVED

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THAT BODY SEEMED TO BE VERY SMALL, ALMOST LIKE A TWELVE YEAR OLD CHILD IN SIZE, ALTHOUGH NOT VISIBLE. APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MORE MEN THEN CAME DOWNSTAIRS WITH A PRESUMED TERRORIST WHO WAS STRUGGLING VIOLENTLY ALL THE WAY AND ATTEMPTING TO KICK OTHERS IN THE GROIN. HE APPEARED UNHURT AND WAS NOT IN ANY WAY HAND-CUFFED.

5. ASTONISHINGLY [REDACTED] WAS THEN IMMEDIATELY ALLOWED UPSTAIRS TO GET HIS BAGS. HE OBSERVED THE ROOM OF THE INCIDENT WHICH WAS STILL SMOKE-FILLED; NO BODIES WERE INSIDE. WATER WAS ALL OVER THE FLOOR, POSSIBLY FROM A PIPE WHICH HAD BEEN RUPTURED DURING THE FIGHTING. THE DOOR WAS TOTALLY SHATTERED BY FIRE. AT THIS POINT A TALL, SANDY-HAIRED RELATIVELY HANDSOME MAN CAME DOWN THE STAIRS AND PAST [REDACTED] TOGETHER WITH THE AFGHAN WHOM THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEN TO BE IN CHARGE. HE WAS ABOUT SIX FEET TWO INCHES TALL, WAS WEARING BEIGE CORDUROY LEVIS AND A WHITE SHIRT WITH COLORED CHECKS. HE LOOKED OBVIOUSLY AMERICAN. AS HE PASSED WITHIN THREE FEET OF [REDACTED] HE SAID IN AN ABSOLUTELY UNMISTAKABLE NATIVE AMERICAN ACCENT TO THE AFGHAN "I WAS SITTING HERE AND HE WAS SITTING THERE." GESTURES SHOWED HE WAS REFERRING TO SOMETHING UPSTAIRS. AFGHAN THEN SLAPPED HIM ON THE BACK AND WALKED OUT.

6. JUST AS [REDACTED] CAME DOWN THE STEPS A MOMENT LATER HE SAW THE SOVIET COMING DOWN THE STEPS; HE WAS TAKING OFF HIS GREEN BULLET-RESISTANT VEST. A NUMBER OF AFGHANS IN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CLOTHING WERE SHAKING HIS HAND AND CONGRATULATING HIM.

7. [REDACTED] WISHED TO REPORT THESE EVENTS TO US AUTHORITIES SINCE THEY WERE DISTURBED AT SUBSEQUENT PRESS ACCOUNTS WHICH DID NOT TALLY WITH THEIR VIVID RECOLLECTIONS. THEY ARE POSITIVE THAT THERE WERE ONLY THREE BODIES AND ONE VERY ALIVE TERRORIST. THEY WERE BAFFLED BY THE AMERICAN WHO SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

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PAGE 2

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SINCE THIS POST HAS NOT BEEN PRIVY TO DETAILED REPORTING FROM
AMEMBASSY KABUL, WE CANNOT DETERMINE WHETHER THESE FACTS ARE

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PERTINENT TO ANY INQUIRIES CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN KABUL.
INTERVIEWING OFFICER FULLER, WHO RECENTLY DEPARTED FROM A TOUR
IN KABUL, WAS IMPRESSED THAT THE [REDACTED] SEEMED VERY RATIONAL,
SOBER AND PERCEPTIVE IN THEIR COMMENTS, CAREFUL TO DISTINGUISH
BETWEEN FACTS AND SURMISE. [REDACTED]

SHOESMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: ADDED EXDIS CAPTION PER SS-0, 2/17/79.

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